

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 071145Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1218

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TZ

SUBJECT: NYERERE TRIES TO MEND FENCES IN ZANZIBAR

REF: (A) ZANZIBAR A-27 NOTAL (B) ZANZIBAR 167

1. TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERE MADE FIVE-DAY VISIT TO ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA BEGINNING DECEMBER 1. IT WAS FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN ONE AND A HALF YEARS NYERERE HAD STOPPED IN ZANZIBAR FOR MORE THAN ONE NIGHT AND VISIT WAS CAST AS FINAL GOOD-WILL TOUR OF ISLANDS BEFORE FEBRUARY UNION OF TANGANYIKA AFRICA NATIONAL UNION (TANU) AND AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY (ASP). IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THIS UNION, NYERERE'S FENCE-MENDING TOUR SEEMS TO HAVE HAD LITTLE SUCCESS.

2. NYERERE WAS FEATURED SPEAKER AT IDD-EL-HAJ SERVICE IN ZANZIBAR DECEMBER 2. THEME OF HIS SPEECH WAS THAT TANZANIA AS A STATE HAS NO RELIGION, ONLY TANZANIANS HAVE RELIGION, AND THAT NEW PARTY WOULD ESPOUSE NO RELIGION, ONLY ITS MEMBERS WOULD HAVE RELIGION. HE SEEMED TO BE SAYING THAT MUSLIM MINORITY IN TANZANIA HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM CHRISTIANS IN A UNITED PARTY AND THAT MUSLIMS WOULD BE BARRED FROM NO OFFICE ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION. IF THIS WHAT HE MEANT, SPEECH WAS
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AIMED AT REASSURING ZANZIBAR'S MUSLIMS (95 PER CENT OR MORE OF

ZANZIBARIS ARE MUSLIMS) THAT THEIR RELIGION IS SECURE IN TANZANIA. WHATEVER NYERERE MEANT, ZANZIBAR REACTION WAS HOSTILE. SOME TOOK HIS REMARKS AS AN EFFORT TO LULL THEM INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY. OTHERS THOUGHT NYERERE WAS ADVOCATING GODLESSNESS AS THE NEXT STEP IN INTRODUCING MARXISM.

3. TENSIONS APPEAR TO BE INCREASING AS FEBRUARY 5, 1977, DATE OF PARTY MERGER APPROACHES. MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE'S REGIME IN ZANZIBAR HAS BEEN REORGANIZATION OF ASP, TO WHICH HE SHIFTED ALMOST ALL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. JUST BEFORE NYERERE'S VISIT HE TRANSFERRED ALMOST ALL OF ASP'S POWERS BACK TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN AND WHICH GOVERNED ZANZIBAR DURING RULE OF HIS PREDECESSOR, KARUME. ASP THAT MERGES WITH TANU WILL BE REDUCED TO A SHELL WITHOUT FUNCTIONS. JUMBE HAS ALSO CALLED IN ASP WOMEN'S LEAGUE LEADERS TO TELL THEM THAT RETAIL OUTLETS RUN BY WOMEN'S LEAGUE WILL BE REORGANIZED SO THERE WILL BE NO PARTY INVOLVEMENT. THE LADIES WERE BACK ON JUMBE'S DOORSTEP DECEMBER 3 TO COMPLAIN THAT GROUP OF TANU LADIES, LED BY WIFE OF TANZANIAN PRIME MINISTER KAWAWA, HAD ARRIVED IN ZANZIBAR AND WERE LAYING DOWN THE LAW ABOUT HOW THINGS WERE GOING TO BE AFTER ASP AND TANU MERGER. ASP WOMEN'S LEAGUE LEADERS CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO PARTY UNION AND IT TOOK SEVERAL SENIOR ASP OFFICIALS TO CALM THEM DOWN.

4. MORE THREATENING TO HARMONY IS ZANZIBAR'S APPARENT INTENTION TO SEEK CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL INTERIM CONSTITUTION ALONG THE LINES OF ITS ORIGINAL MERGER POSITION (REF A) AND CONSISTENT WITH CONCESSIONS GAINED BY ZANZIBAR IN DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR NEW PARTY (REF B). THE CHANGES CALL FOR RESURRECTION OF TITLE "PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR" AND LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES THAT WOULD ENSURE THAT UNITED REPUBLIC COULD NOT TAKE MEASURES CONCERNING ZANZIBAR OF WHICH ZANZIBAR DID NOT APPROVE. EFFECT WOULD BE TO SET ZANZIBAR'S AUTONOMY IN CEMENT. PRESENT ZANZIBAR TACTIC IS TO INSIST ON THESE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BEFORE GIVING FINAL ASSENT TO PARTY MERGER. NYERERE AND THE MAINLAND, ONCE AGAIN, MAY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO AGREE.

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